

F-2008-01005

The James Madison Project
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14 March 2008

Scott A. Koch
Information and Privacy Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington D.C. 20505

APPROVED FOR RELEASED
DATE: 18-Aug-2010

Re: FOIA Request – Counterterrorist Operations Course materials

Dear Mr. Koch:

This is a request on behalf of the James Madison Project under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, et seq., for copies of all course materials past and present, including syllabi, reading materials, examinations, visual aids, and recordings, for the 8-week advanced Counterterrorist Operations Course established by the DCI Counterterrorist Center in or around 1999 as part of the CIA's "comprehensive operational plan of attack against the Bin Laden/al-Qa'ida target inside and outside Afghanistan" ("The Plan"). For your reference, this Counterterrorist Operations Course was referenced in DCI George Tenet's congressional testimony of 17 October 2002 (located at https://www.cia.gov/news-information/speeches-testimony/2002/dci-testimony_10172002.html) in the twentieth paragraph under the heading "Going to War against al-Qa'ida—'The Plan'" in the last sentence, "In addition, we established an eight-week advanced Counterterrorist Operations Course to share the tradecraft we had developed and refined over the years."

If you deny all or part of this request, please cite the specific exemptions you believe justifies your refusal to release the information or permit the review and notify us of your appeal procedures available under the law. In excising material, please "black out" rather than "white out" or "cut out".

"Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own Governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

James Madison, 1822

The James Madison Project

We are hereby requesting a waiver of all fees. The James Madison Project is a non-profit organization under the laws of the District of Columbia and has the ability to disseminate information on a wide scale. Stories concerning our activities have received prominent mention in many publications including, but not limited to, *The Washington Post*, *The Washington Times*, *St. Petersburg Tribune*, *San Diego Union Tribune*, *European Stars & Stripes*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Mother Jones* and *Salon Magazine*. Our website, where much of the information received through our FOIA requests is or will be posted for all to review, can be accessed at <http://www.jamesmadisonproject.org>. Prior requests submitted by our organization have all received fee waivers.

Furthermore, there can be no question that the information sought would contribute to the public's understanding of government operations or activities and is in the public interest. The course materials for this course would provide insight into the methods of the Counter-Terrorist Center by illustrating how the CIA instructs its counter-terrorism operatives and analysts and how its teaching methods have evolved over time. Understanding these processes will clearly contribute to the public's understanding of government operations or activities.

Please respond to this request within 20 working days as provided for by law. Failure to timely comply may result in the filing of a civil action against your agency in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Your cooperation in this matter would be appreciated. If you wish to discuss this request, please do not hesitate to contact me at either (202) 498-0011 or my law office at (202) 454-2809.

Finally, please have all return correspondence addressed specifically to my attention to ensure proper delivery.

Sincerely,

/s/

Mark S. Zaid
Executive Director

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